Wheelwright Refuse

AML Enhancement Rule Reclamation Project
Floyd County - Wheelwright Quadrangle
Project Description

The proposed project (22.68 acres total) will remove and reclaim an existing coal refuse pile located along KY Highway 306 in Floyd County, Kentucky, near the community of Wheelwright. The project is centrally located at latitude 37°20'21.782"N and longitude 82°43'29.319"W (see the attached map). The existing coal refuse pile is a potential fire hazard, an environmental threat, and possible source of stream pollution within Otter Creek and forest fires could conceivably ignite the refuse.

All coal refuse from the project area will be excavated and trucked to a permitted coal processing facility. Waste materials will be placed at the refuse/waste disposal site at the off-site preparation plant. Access to the work area will be via an existing road "A" leading from KY-306. An additional access road "B" may become necessary to construct, but will only be utilized if at some time in the future it is needed or there is a problem with road "A". Excessive dust on access road surfaces will be controlled by watering equipment. Watering will be limited near public roadway entrances in order to prevent tracking of excessive debris onto the roadways. All refuse removal will occur between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00p.m., Monday through Saturday, unless an emergency warrants a change of scheduled work hours.

The refuse pile will be removed via 5 to 15 foot lifts which will be sloped to the back towards the natural hillside in order to minimize sedimentation related problems. A 5-foot berm will be used to control any down-slope movement of unconsolidated materials. Basically, the refuse pile will be worked from within itself. As the refuse pile lowers in elevation, the front berm would be pulled inward and lowered simultaneously until the valley floor is reached. If deemed necessary, sumps and/or sediment traps, or other sediment control devices such as silt fences and hay bales may be used to control runoff. Upon completion of the refuse removal, prompt vegetation and the establishment of a drainage channel, including structures which reduce flow velocity, will be constructed to control surface drainage and establish natural flow patterns.

The refuse pile, although a previously disturbed area, is currently covered by mature trees and other vegetation on the outslope of the removal area. In order to prevent any takings of the endangered (USESA) Indiana Bat, trees representing potential bat habitat will be removed between October 15 and March 31, with written consent of the DAML Director. Any trees which need to be removed between March 31 and October 14 will require a bat survey by a qualified biologist prior to their removal.

Field inspections have revealed no seepage from the refuse pile. If conditions indicate a potential for water release during removal operations, water will be released in a controlled manner and allowed to bleed off slowly. Sediment structures will be constructed in accordance with DAML design templates, and will remain in place until all disturbed areas have established vegetative cover. The work progression will ensure that run off passes through sediment structures before leaving the project area. No equipment will be operated within a local stream channel(s) without the Division of Water and / or U.S. Corps of Engineers approval.

The project site will be vegetated in accordance with a DAML vegetation plan as soon as possible after removal has commenced. Disturbed areas will be scarified, limed, top-soiled, seeded, and mulched. Top soil may be borrowed from on-site locations in order to establish vegetative cover. The entire work area will be graded to a stable configuration. DAML will plant trees on the reclaimed site as its contribution to the project.